

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL MEMORANDUM

SB 3246 – HB 3874

April 15, 2010

**SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT (017017):** Deletes all language after the enacting clause. Authorizes a prosecutor to allow parents or guardians, of children against whom a petition of truancy has been brought for being absent more than five days during the school year, to attend parent education training and parent-teacher conferences as an alternative to criminal prosecution.

FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:

Decrease State Revenue – Not Significant  
Decrease State Expenditures – Not Significant

Decrease Local Revenue – Not Significant  
Decrease Local Expenditures – Not Significant

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

**Unchanged from the original fiscal note.**

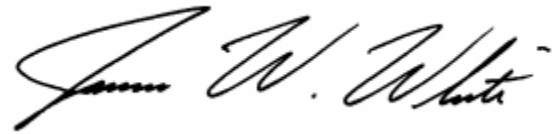
Assumptions applied to amendment:

- Currently a parent or guardian can be charged with a Class C misdemeanor offense if their child has been adjudicated unruly for truancy. The provisions of the bill provide an alternative for the prosecutor for parents or guardians who have control of a child against whom a petition of truancy has been brought for being absent for more than five days during the school year.
- A small decrease in cases in the court system, which will result in reduced state and local government expenditures for processing the cases and reduced state and local government revenue from fees, taxes and costs collected. These reductions in expenditures and revenue are estimated to be not significant.
- Currently parents or guardians of children with five or more unexcused absences are required to attend a truancy board meeting before the case is turned over to juvenile court. Schools and attendance staff work with parents on an individual basis. Courts sometimes require parents to attend parenting programs. The cost of such programs are covered by grants or on a sliding fee schedule paid by the parent or guardian.

- Parent-teacher conferences are available when needed. At least one day a year is set aside for conferences and other times can be arranged if necessary.

**CERTIFICATION:**

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James W. White". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "White".

James W. White, Executive Director

/lsc